

**REMARKS**

This Application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 1, 2006 ("*Office Action*"). Claims 1-47 are pending in the Application and stand rejected. Applicants amend the title and portions of the Specification to correct typographical errors. Applicants also amend Claims 1, 6, 9, 25, 26, 36, and 41 to correct typographical errors or to clarify claim language. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

**I. Specification Objections**

In the *Office Action*, the Examiner objects to the Specification. (*Office Action*, pp. 2-3). Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the Specification. In this Response, Applicants amend the Specification in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to the Specification be withdrawn.

**II. Drawing Objections**

**A. Reference character 66:**

The Examiner objects to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5). The *Office Action* explains:

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: Figure 2, reference character "66".

(*Office Action*, p. 3). Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants point to the Specification, page 19, lines 1-4, which states:

User results 66 may comprise various data regarding the results of various buy and sell requests and payout information, such as the identity of the user who has a winning entry, the determined payout for the entry and/or whether the payout was distributed to the user, for example.

(Specification, p. 19, ll. 1-4). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) and respectfully request that this objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

**B. Reference character 50:**

The Examiner objects to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5). The *Office Action* explains:

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: Figure 2, reference sign “50”.

(*Office Action*, p. 3). Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s thorough review of the Specification and drawings. Applicants have amended the Specification to no longer refer to reference character “50” on page 19, line 16 of the Specification. This amendment merely corrects a typographical error in the Specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

**C. Reference characters 16, 34, 36, and 46:**

The Examiner objects to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5). The *Office Action* explains:

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “16” in Figure 2 has been used to designate both “Exchange System Platform” and “Betting system platform”; reference character “34” has been used to designate both “telephone operators” and “telephone operator”; reference character “36” has been used to designate both “Website(s)” and Website”; and reference character “46” has been used to designate both “Internet Betting Provider” and Internet exchange provider”.

(*Office Action*, p. 4). Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s thorough review of the Specification and drawings. In this Response, Applicants have amended the specification to correct:

- (1) The reference to “betting system platform 16” on page 17, line 28 of the Specification;
- (2) The reference to “telephone operator 34” on page 16, line 18 of the Specification; and
- (3) The references to “Website 36” on page 16, line 19 and page 19, line 25 of the Specification.

Also, Applicants have revised Figure 2 so that reference character 46 refers to "Internet exchange provider." The attached sheet of an annotated marked-up drawings includes changes to Figure 2. Replacement sheets are also attached.

Applicants respectfully note that the forgoing amendments have been made to correct minor typographical errors and do not alter the scope of the Specification, drawings, and/or claims. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

### **III. Claim Objections**

The Examiner objects to Claims 6, 9, 25, 26, 29, 36, and 41 due to informalities. (*Office Action*, p. 5).

#### **A. Claim 6 (and Claims 9, 25, 26, 36, and 41):**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's attention to, thorough review of, and suggestions for the Application. Applicants have amended Claims 6, 9, 25, 26, 36, and 41 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to these claims be withdrawn.

#### **B. Claims 29 and 36:**

An Examiner Interview was conducted on February 27, 2007 between Examiner Colbert and Juliet Mitchell Dirba, attorney for Applicants. During the interview, Examiner Colbert indicated that the objections to these Claims 29 and 36 would be withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

### **IV. Section 112 Rejections**

The Examiner notes that Claim 1 contains a typographical error causing an antecedent basis problem. (*Office Action*, p. 6). Applicants appreciate the Examiner's attention to and thorough review of the Application. As Applicants have corrected this error, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of at least this portion of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection.

The Examiner also rejects Claim 1 (and Claims 2-47 as depending from these claims) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps,

such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. (*Office Action*, p. 5). Applicants respectfully disagree.

During the Examiner Interview on February 27, 2007, Examiner Colbert indicated that the § 112 rejection would be obviated if an antecedent basis issue found in Claim 1 was corrected. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to correct this typographical error. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn. As Claim 1 is proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the rejection of dependent Claims 2-47 should also be withdrawn.

**V. Prior Art**

The *Office Action* states:

It is unclear from Applicants' specification, claims, and drawings how Applicants' invention differs from any lottery, betting or wagering activity. Applicants' are respectfully requested to clarify the difference in the claim limitations because the claims as written are not getting across what Applicants' consider to be their invention.

A prior art rejection has not been given because the claims have many issues which need to be resolved in order to determine Applicants' patentable subject matter.

(*Office Action*, p. 6). Applicants respectfully note that the *Office Action* must cite a particular reference that qualifies as "any lottery, betting or wagering activity" in order for Applicants to clarify how Applicants' invention differs from that reference. (*See generally* M.P.E.P §§ 700 *et seq*). Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' claims, as written, are clear. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue detailed objections or rejections to the extent that the Examiner finds certain claimed aspects to be unclear. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that this piecemeal rejection is improper. (*See* M.P.E.P. § 707.07(g)). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

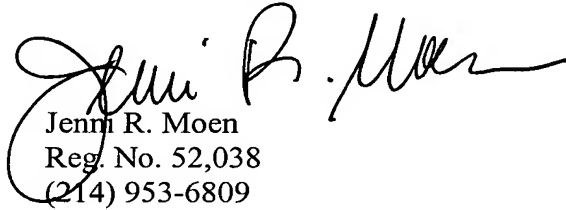
**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is in condition for allowance and favorable notice thereof is solicited. Applicants request allowance of Claims 1-47.

No fees are believed to be due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call their attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: February 28, 2007

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